

MAY 22 1965

LBJ Seeks Domingo Scapegoats; Lots of Candidates

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Washington, May 21—Presidential advisers are now looking for scapegoats to blame for the Dominican Republic mess. The fact that such a hunt is on is sufficient proof that the Administration realizes the whole military intervention operation has been fouled up in its follow-through phases.

The effort to pin the blame elsewhere than on President Johnson has started with a rush in the last 24 hours. The first proposal candidates for the White House doghouse have been U.S. Ambassador W. Tapley Bennett Jr.; the new CIA chief, Adm. William F. Raborn Jr., and Undersecretary of State Thomas C. Mann.

It does not matter whether any of these three are actually culpable. There has to be a scapegoat list, even if, as at present, it is passed along surreptitiously by officials whose tips usually reflect the White House line.

It Could Be a Long List

Because the errors in judgment, or misinterpretation of the Administration's program for bringing order out of chaos, involve diplomatic, military and intelligence agencies, the list of scapegoats could be pretty long.

Certainly it could be more extensive in connection with the present messed-up situation than the roll of wrong guessers and blundering operatives in John F. Kennedy's Bay of Pigs fiasco in 1961.

Comparatively innocent high officials had to take the rap



CIA Chief Raborn
Too new to be blamed?

under Kennedy in 1961, such as the then CIA head Allen Dulles, his deputy Richard M. Bissell Jr., and the then chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Lyman Lemnitzer. But Kennedy at that time accepted the whole blame himself. To date the White

House has shown no similar inclination.

Instead, Ambassador Bennett is being blamed on various vague counts: that he failed to have the right contacts in the Dominican Republic, that he overemphasized the danger to American lives in urging the President to rush the marines in on April 28.

Raborn of the CIA is accused of making too emotional an appeal to the White House about the Communist threat. This charge, from Administration sources that should know better, makes little sense. Raborn had just been sworn in on April 28 when Johnson ordered the marines in. The main CIA appeal for prompt action came from retiring CIA chief John McCone.

Mann in a Key Spot

But the digs at Raborn are basically aimed at the intelligence operation he heads. The State Department and Pentagon have consistently cast aspersions on the value of CIA "evaluations."

Undersecretary of State Mann is caught in the scapegoat hunt mainly because he has been considered more instrumental than any other adviser in the President's decision to act at once. On

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